

# Welcome to our newsletter

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. I hope you will enjoy reading about all the amazing things that your children have been doing across all three Springwell Leeds sites this half term. As we reach the end of our first half term, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support and partnership. As always, it has been a pleasure seeing them settle into their new groups and continue to grow and develop.

Here at Springwell Leeds, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment where every child can thrive. Our dedicated team of staff works hard to support the individual needs of each of your children, helping them to develop the essential skills they will need in life and build positive relationships. It is so important therefore that you help to ensure that your child attends every day at school that they can. Learning happens at the Academy every day of the week and therefore every time your child doesn't attend, they miss out on their learning and their progress is in danger of being affected. We have managed to improve our school attendance every year since the COVID pandemic and I don't want this year to be any different.

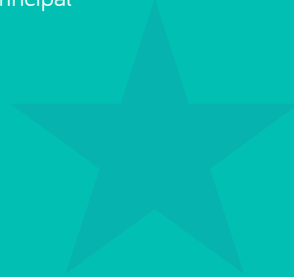
We were so proud of our Year 11 students last summer who were responsible for the best set of exam results we have ever had. More children passed more qualifications than ever before which means they have been able to successfully move on to the next steps in their journey.

Enjoy the newsletter and the half term break ! School opens again to all children at the usual time on Monday 4th November.



*Scott Jacques*

Executive Principal

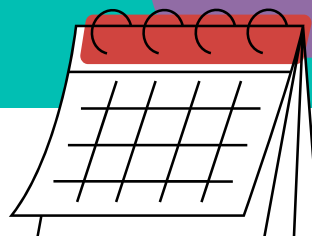


### Key Dates

Schools close Friday 25th October and re-open Monday 4th November

Training day Monday 2nd December

<https://springwellacademyleeds.org/school-calendar/>





# North Site



## World Poetry Day

On 3rd October, the community at Springwell North came together to celebrate World Poetry Day - and what an exciting day it was! This year's theme was all about counting and it sparked a whirlwind of creativity amongst students and staff alike.



## Counting

Have you ever stopped to think about all the things you count every day? From the petals of flowers to the planes in the sky, from the bounce of basketballs to the coins in our wallets, our imaginations were set loose! A

surprising number of students were also counting down the days to the much-anticipated holidays!

Many of us shared our thoughts on who we count on in our lives. We turned our attention to those special people in our lives we can always rely on. From teachers, friends, and family, to the beloved pets who provide comfort and companionship, the responses were heart warming.



## Our World Record Attempt!

To top it all off, Springwell North also participated in a Guinness World Record Attempt for the largest online poetry lesson ever! We joined over 250,000 students across the world to create a poem all about counting. Just imagine the excitement and buzz around school as we prepared for the official attempt. The officials are still verifying our attempt, but fingers crossed for that record!



# East Site



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Primary Pod raised nearly £100 in aid of Macmillan cancer trust - thank you to all the pupils and staff who baked and brought in goodies to raise money for this worthwhile charity.

## Be the Boss

KS4 pupils have been engaging with this programme that is designed to understand what it takes to run their own business, and to develop the skills and confidence to do so. External business bosses have been working with pupils to explore the world of entrepreneurship!



## Fearneville Sports Day

An athletic event run by Leeds Well School Partnership. A group of students from Spruce class joined in this event. They learnt new skills and participated in all activities. Well done to all involved.

## Herd Farm

An event funded by Yorkshire Children's Charity, pupils from East and North attended. The children took part in cycling, bushcraft and orienteering. All children were amazing, they worked together as teams and said they loved the day and would like to do the activities again. Yorkshire Children's Charity said our children were a credit to the school.



## Halloween

Pupils at East will celebrate on the last Friday of the half term, 25th October. October Art has started to have a spooky theme.

# South Site

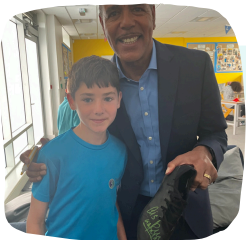
## Cooking at Springwell

Our KS4 children have had the opportunity to partake in cooking sessions this term, and this week they have practised safe knife skills with Mr Macdonald. The level of attention to detail and care around safety measures shown by all pupils is phenomenal, and our children are also learning important life skills such as budgeting, weighing and measuring and healthy meal planning strategies. The quality of food being produced and the pride our students are taking in their work is exceptional. A huge thank you to Mr Macdonald!

To improve our offer, we are interested in hearing from any family members who work in catering and may like to talk to our children about their careers. We are hoping to upgrade our cooking facilities and we are currently looking for sponsorship and donations - if any families would be interested in working with us to upgrade our cooking spaces, please speak to Mrs Reader.

## Our Admin Team

Please remember, our Admin Team, are very busy and our phonedlines in particular can be non-stop at times. Where possible, avoid calling repeatedly; leaving a message or sending an email may be a quicker route through to the help you need. I am aware that both Debbie and Michaela are key adults to many families and offer invaluable support, so I know you will join me in thanking them for a job well done this half term!



### Kammy came to Springwell!

We had a visitor from a very special guest this term...Mr Chris 'Kammy' Kamara himself! Being a very proud Principal, Mrs Reader reached out to Kammy, asking him to visit so she could show off our wonderful school. Thankfully, he was only too pleased to visit, giving our children the opportunity of a lifetime. He signed autographs, posed for photos and talked to the children about their experiences. The children did us proud, and were polite, welcoming and patient as he did the rounds and posed for pictures.

It was humbling for staff to see how much the visit meant to children, with one young man telling us, 'this is the best day of my life - I can't believe you got this legend to come to OUR school!'

Chris later took to his own X (formerly know as Twitter) page, sharing just what he thought of us with his 2 million followers:



**Chris Kamara** ✓ @chris\_kammy · 9/12/24 ...

Spent the morning @Springwell\_Lds South to see the great work being done there. Very challenging & also very rewarding - they turn young peoples lives around 🙌🙌

My son said it was the best day ever at school, he loved meeting you thank you for taking time out of your day to go see the amazing children at springwell.

# Attendance



## HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE?

### What if my child is poorly?

We can accommodate children in school with sniffles and minor ailments, and we will try to keep them comfortable, for example giving extra fluids, space to rest or a slightly shorter day. We would ask that parents liaise with us, so we can work out what is best for them on the day. If your child is likely to become dysregulated due to pain or illness, we would welcome a conversation to help keep them settled and safe. Some children really struggle with the break in routine that illness can bring, so it is always worth seeing what we can do to keep this continuity in attendance going.

### What if my child is refusing to attend?

Call us as soon as possible, so we can offer a call with a key adult and/or offer flexible options such as a slightly later start or a meet and greet. Often children feel empowered to tackle any difficulties and barriers to attending if they can speak to staff in advance.

### What if my child missed their taxi?

Let us know straight away. It is the parents' responsibility to get their child into school, so if the taxi is missed, please bring them in or try to arrange a lift with a relative or friend. In rare circumstances, we might be able to support by collecting your child.

### What if my child has a doctor/dentist appointment?

Where possible, please try to book these after school or in the school holidays. We understand emergencies happen, and that it isn't always easy to get an appointment. Please bring your child to school before and after their appointment, to maximise their learning time and ensure they get their attendance marks.

Please remember, we welcome (and indeed expect) children to attend with minor ailments such as a runny nose or an ache or pain. If your child has been sick, give us a call to talk this through - depending on the cause, they may not need to stay home for 48 hours. If your child is unwell but feels able to 'give it a go' please call Reception...they can let the class team know, and we can get in touch if they can't manage the full day. Lots of our children struggle with the disruption to their routine that being away from school brings, so we would always encourage attending wherever possible. We can look to make short term adjustments to support them.

As the half term holidays begin, please use this opportunity to book things like dentist appointments, so these don't impact on attendance next term.

# Easy Fundraising

## Help us raise money.. it won't cost you a thing!

Just letting you know that Springwell Leeds Academy - South are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

Here's what to do ...

First download the App ...



Then ....

- 1 Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- 2 Sign up and search for us
- 3 Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

Everytime you shop online, the shop will make a donation to our school.

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment